

**GREAT SALT LAKE AMENDMENTS**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Kelly B. Miles**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill addresses state actions related to the Great Salt Lake.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

► enacts provisions requiring the Division of Water Resources to develop the Great Salt Lake Watershed Integrated Water Assessment, including:

- defining terms;
- providing for what the integrated water assessment may include;
- addressing how the integrated water assessment is to be developed and implemented, including the creation of a work plan;
- requiring reporting; and
- requiring a study of the impact of certain best management practices associated with post-construction retention storm water permit requirements on the water budget of the Great Salt Lake.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2023:

► to the Department of Natural Resources -- Water Resources, as a one-time appropriation:

- from General Fund, \$5,000,000.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**73-10g-401**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**73-10g-402**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**73-10g-403**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**73-10g-404**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**73-10g-405**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **73-10g-401** is enacted to read:

**Part 4. Great Salt Lake Watershed Integrated Water Assessment**

**73-10g-401. Definitions.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Great Salt Lake watershed" means the area comprised of the Great Salt Lake, the Bear River watershed, the Jordan River watershed, the Utah Lake watershed, the Weber River watershed, and the West Desert watershed.

(2) "Integrated water assessment" means an integrated surface and ground water assessment for the Great Salt Lake watershed developed under Section **73-10g-402**.

(3) "Work plan" means the plan developed under Section **73-10g-403** to develop and implement an integrated water assessment.

Section 2. Section **73-10g-402** is enacted to read:

**73-10g-402. Development of an integrated water assessment.**

(1) The division shall develop and implement an integrated surface and ground water assessment for the Great Salt Lake watershed.

(2) The integrated water assessment may in relationship with the Great Salt Lake watershed:

(a) provide an assessment of the amounts and quality of available water resources;

(b) assess and forecast the quantity of water available for human, agricultural, economic development, and environmental or instream uses, and ecological needs, including:

(i) current and future water supply and demand and the factors that influence

availability;

(ii) long-term trends in water availability and the causes of those trends; and

(iii) seasonal and decadal forecasts of availability;

(c) investigate the potential benefits of forest management and watershed restoration

in:

(i) improving snowpack retention;

(ii) increasing soil moisture;

(iii) sustaining river flows in low flow seasons;

(iv) mitigating wildfire risk; and

(v) improving water quality;

(d) coordinate an effort to:

(i) quantify the amount of water and water quality needed to sustain high priority ecological sites in rivers, riparian, wetland, and lake systems; and

(ii) incorporate the water demand into the water supply and demand model;

(e) identify and evaluate best management practices that may be used to provide a reliable water supply that:

(i) meet water quality objectives;

(ii) meet agriculture water objectives;

(iii) accommodate anticipated growth and economic development; and

(iv) provide adequate flow to sustain the Great Salt Lake, the Great Salt Lake's wetlands, and other ecological functions in the Great Salt Lake's watershed; and

(f) address other matters identified in the work plan.

(3) The integrated water assessment shall include a water budget for the Great Salt Lake and the Great Salt Lake's associated wetlands, including water flows needed to maintain different lake levels under different scenarios, taking into consideration water quality, ecological needs, economic benefits, and public health benefits of the Great Salt Lake.

(4) In developing and implementing the integrated water assessment, the division shall:

(a) consult and coordinate with other state, local, regional, and federal governmental entities, water users, and other stakeholders; and

(b) coordinate with, and where appropriate, consider or incorporate other planning efforts, assessments, studies, or reports relevant to the Great Salt Lake watershed.

Section 3. Section **73-10g-403** is enacted to read:

**73-10g-403. Work plan.**

(1) (a) By no later than November 30, 2023, and before developing the integrated water assessment under Section [73-10g-402](#), the division shall create a plan for developing and implementing the integrated water assessment.

(b) In creating the work plan, the division shall consult with the entities described in Subsection [73-10g-402](#)(3)(a).

(2) The work plan shall include in relationship to the Great Salt Lake watershed:

(a) a synthesis of available information, literature, and data, and an assessment of scientific, technical, measurement, and other informational needs, relating to:

(i) water quantity, water quality, water use, and water demand;

(ii) improving quantification and quality of data for:

(A) surface and groundwater water diversions;

(B) depletions; and

(C) return flow;

(iii) developing, downscaling, or otherwise updating models and assessment tools to improve understanding of water supply, water use, and water availability;

(iv) understanding changing watershed conditions, including changes in climate, evapotranspiration, and other water supply vulnerabilities; and

(v) other matters as the division determines to be appropriate; and

(b) a description of how the work plan shall be implemented to address the needs described in Subsection (2)(a), including:

(i) prioritize proposed activities, such as monitoring data infrastructure needs, studies, analyses, and development of tools necessary to implement the integrated water assessment;

(ii) an implementation schedule, with completion of an integrated water assessment by no later than November 30, 2026;

(iii) recommendations and a cost assessment for the implementation of the work plan;

(iv) public engagement process;

(v) an agreed approach to facilitate integrated watershed management and coordination across local, state, and federal agencies; and

(vi) other matters as the division determines to be appropriate.

Section 4. Section **73-10g-404** is enacted to read:

**73-10g-404. Completion of integrated water assessment -- Reporting and publishing.**

(1) The division shall complete the integrated water assessment by no later than November 30, 2026.

(2) (a) The division shall report at least annually on the progress and findings from the integrated water assessment to:

(i) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee;

(ii) the Legislative Water Development Commission; and

(iii) the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council.

(b) The division shall publish a report provided under Subsection (2)(a) on the division's website.

(3) The division shall publish a final report on an integrated water assessment by no later than December 31, 2027.

Section 5. Section **73-10g-405** is enacted to read:

**73-10g-405. Great Salt Lake related post-construction storm water management.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Storm water" means the same as that term is defined in Section [19-5-108.5](#).

(b) "Storm water permit" means the same as that term is defined in Section [19-5-108.5](#).

(2) (a) As part of the integrated water assessment, the division shall study the impact of low impact development best management practices associated with post-construction retention storm water permit requirements on the water budget of the Great Salt Lake.

(b) As part of the study under this section, the division shall:

(i) coordinate with the Division of Water Quality; and

(ii) when appropriate, seek information from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 6. **Appropriation.**

The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2023. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts

152 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

153 ITEM 1

154 To Department of Natural Resources -- Water Resources

155 From General Fund, One-time \$5,000,000

156 Schedule of Programs:

157 Water Resources \$5,000,000

158 The Legislature intends that the Division of Water Resources use this one-time  
159 appropriation to develop and implement an integrated surface and ground water assessment for  
160 the Great Salt Lake watershed required by Title 73, Chapter 10g, Part 4, Great Salt Lake  
161 Watershed Integrated Water Assessment, enacted in this bill. The appropriation is nonlapsing.